

**Record of the Second Meeting
of the
Environment Committee
under the
Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission**

**April 11-14, 1994
Washington, DC U.S.A.**

The second meeting of the Environment Committee under the U.S.-Russian Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation (the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission--GCC) took place in Washington, DC April 11-14, 1994. The American side was headed by Carol Browner, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; the Russian side was headed by A.A. Averchenkov, Vice Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. The list of participants is attached.

U.S.-Russian Environmental Agreement

The Committee reviewed and reconciled in substantive terms the Russian and U.S. drafts of the new bilateral Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection. After formal reconciliation of the English and Russian versions, the text will be submitted for signature at the next meeting of the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission (June 1994).

Upon signature of the new Agreement, the two sides will constitute a U.S.-Russian Joint Committee on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection. In general terms, the Joint Committee will address specific cooperative projects designed and implemented on the basis of equality, reciprocity, and mutual benefit. The Gore-Chernomyrdin Environment Committee will continue to provide a high-level forum for the discussion of issues of mutual interest and concern in the environmental area, and will oversee activities under the Joint Committee. For as long as the two bodies co-exist, their co-chairpersons and secretariat organizations will be identical. Meetings of the two bodies will be coordinated in terms of timing and location for maximum efficiency and minimal expense.

Environmental Technical Assistance

The Committee reviewed progress under the fourteen environmental technical assistance projects listed in the Environment Committee report of December 1993. Both sides expressed their intention to complete the design of all 14 projects by the end of May and to have an updated status report for presentation during the June 1994 GCC meeting.

The sides agreed that, as these projects begin to be implemented, there should be formed a special joint working group which would coordinate activity and collect and distribute information about the projects.

In the interests of an improved legal and organizational basis for activity on the technical assistance projects, the Russian side considers it advisable to formulate and adopt special documents (agreements, protocols of intent, contracts, etc.) which would regulate the process of cooperation and distribution of responsibilities on both sides for each project.

Biodiversity Conservation and Forestry

The sides exchanged written statements proposing topics for cooperation in biodiversity. The Russian side emphasized its interest in having the protected areas/nature reserves/parks system in Russia be the focal point of bilateral activities, guided by the investment portfolio recently prepared in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund. The American side stressed the link between biodiversity conservation and sustainable development and use of natural resources, and informed the Russian side of the establishment in March 1994 of a U.S. Working Group comprised of 16 Federal agencies to coordinate biodiversity and sustainable use activities with Russia under the Gore-Chernomyrdin Environment Committee. The Russian side was apprised of the U.S. side's intention to allocate FY 94 funds for biodiversity support to Russia, specifically to provide emergency assistance for preservation of germplasm collections of the Vavilov and Komarov Institutes in St. Petersburg.

It was decided that: each side will familiarize itself with the other's proposals for biodiversity cooperation and agree on project criteria through further consultation; the Russian side will consider creating an analogous interagency coordinating body for biodiversity; technical and financial assistance from the U.S. Government and from international organizations will be a major component; work will take into consideration biodiversity activities already being implemented under the bilateral Environmental Agreement; both sides will seek to identify specific projects by the time of the next meeting of the full Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission in June 1994.

The Committee took note of the excellent cooperation on forest science that has taken place between the Russian Federation and the U.S. since 1972 under leadership of the Federal Forest Service of Russia (FFSR) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA FS). The Committee welcomed recent initiatives to expand cooperation on forest research, national policies on forest economics, assessment and protection of forests (especially from forest fire and insect attack), and sustainable forest management. The Committee is pleased to note that the Memorandum of Understanding between the two aforementioned agencies on Cooperation in the Field of Forestry has been negotiated within the framework of the Gore-Chernomyrdin Science and Technology Committee, and should be ready for signature during the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission meeting in June 1994.

Global Environmental Issues

The Russian and U.S. delegations discussed five topics related to international treaties including: the status of the ratification process for the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) in Russia and current national efforts to prepare national plans in both countries, the concept of Joint Implementation in the FCCC, cooperation on the stratospheric ozone problem, and satellite monitoring. The U.S. delegation described the recent interagency activities to develop a national Climate Change Action Plan in the U.S. and offered to provide information to the Russian side as they develop their plan. Both delegations agreed that cooperation on joint projects to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in the industrial, utility, and forest sectors as called for under the FCCC would be beneficial. The U.S. side offered to prepare a concept paper on the topic of Joint Implementation within one month. A brief discussion of the Russian workplan for the Russian Country Study was held, and a date (May 23-25) was set for a visit by the Russian Principal Investigator and others to work out details of the project.

In the area of stratospheric ozone, the U.S. side described the status of current efforts to provide the Russian Federation assistance related to their obligations under the Montreal Protocol. The Russian delegation described their needs for financial support and expressed particular interest in potential joint ventures between private Russian companies and U.S. firms. The U.S. agreed to explore this issue and to make available information on potential sources of funds for such projects. In this connection, EPA is in the process of concluding a grant to the Industry Cooperative for Ozone Layer Protection for technical assistance to Russia in the form of technology study tours, investment project development, and related activities. EPA has also received funding in the current fiscal year from the U.S. Navy to support similar activities in Russia. The A.I.D. representative noted that the Russian-American Enterprise Fund has been established to stimulate the creation of small- and medium-sized businesses in Russia, including those engaged in the production of environmentally sound technologies.

In the area of monitoring, the Russian delegation suggested that a joint working group of the Space Committee and the Environment Committee should be considered. The possibility of maintaining overlapping memberships between the two Committees was also discussed.

London Convention Issues

Both sides recognize the critical problems associated with the management of low-level liquid radioactive waste in the Russian Federation and its continuing implications with respect to ocean disposal. Both sides share a strong desire to have the Russian Federation achieve the waste management capabilities needed to prevent any future disposal of low-level liquid radioactive waste in the ocean. Both sides support multilateral cooperation among concerned nations and,

in particular, share a strong interest in working with the other governments, including Norway, Japan, and Korea, to bring about a solution to this waste management problem. Both sides support the concept of initiating technical and scientific meetings and exchanges of experts to address specific problems associated with the management of low-level liquid radioactive waste.

Recognizing the urgency for action to find appropriate solutions to this problem, the U.S. side is prepared to assemble a team of U.S. and other international experts to address a possible enhanced capability at the Murmansk Shipping Company's low-level liquid radioactive waste processing facility. This could be part of a larger multilateral effort to address this general liquid radioactive waste management problem.

Arctic Environmental Issues

The U.S. side called for greater coordination of U.S.-Russian activities in the Arctic. Both sides agreed to improve bilateral cooperation under the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy. U.S. officials described their domestic coordination process and requested the Russian side to provide similar information. The U.S. introduced its draft agreement on bilateral Arctic contamination; the Russian side undertook to review the proposal and respond shortly.

The U.S. side reported on its efforts in Arctic monitoring and assessment, calling for greater coordination under the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program of the AEPS, especially inasmuch as both countries are designated as lead countries to perform the assessment of heavy metals for the AMAP assessment report. The Russian side concurred, noting that it would like to cooperate with the U.S. in future monitoring of Arctic geographic areas of mutual interest, and in the development of the AMAP assessment. The necessity of assembling and organizing existing Arctic data for the early state of AMAP was also stressed.

Concerning the proposed Beringia International Park, the sides exchanged brief update reports, describing their respective efforts toward establishment of the International Park. Significant efforts have been directed by both Governments to resolve divided local opinion in Alaska and Chukotka. While these efforts appear to be making progress, it was agreed that closer communication about the local efforts, as well as other aspects of the project, needs to be re-established between Moscow and Washington. The sides agreed to accomplish written status reports on their respective actions over the past two years, respective obstacles that may remain for the project, and recommendations for the next steps. The reports would be submitted to the June 1994 Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission meeting. In the next 2-3 weeks, the sides agreed to designate their respective responsible officials to oversee preparation of the reports. On a related point, the U.S. delegation's A.I.D. representative expressed willingness to discuss the

possibility of a technical assistance project in the Chukotka region.

Environmental Health Issues

Both sides reviewed USAID/Moscow's conceptual ideas for improving environmental health in Russia, and developed an approach for further refinement of these ideas, including an initial general schedule for further development.

USAID/Moscow's initial conceptual ideas for an "Ecological Disaster Zone Program" and a targeted "Industry Improvement Program" were presented to the Russian side; it was agreed that these would be the subject of further discussion and refinement. The U.S. side noted that its suggestions would be developed in the context of an interagency process. In addition, the Russian side suggested that it is important to strengthen information about environment and health to verify the accuracy of existing information, to clarify the linkages between health problems and environmental contamination, and to support policy decisions. The first of these activities would be addressed through a seminar to review the current problem status and make recommendations for the future.

It was decided that:

(1) A small planning group of 3-4 persons from both the Russian and U.S. sides should meet in Russia, probably in May 1994, to prepare proposals that broadly describes key topics for future cooperation in environmental health. The proposals would be presented at the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission meeting in June for review and endorsement of general directions.

(2) Based on the results of the June meeting, further planning would take place between July and October 1994 which would result in a detailed program on U.S.-Russian Cooperation in Environmental Health. The planning process would include a seminar on environmental health. After interagency review of the program within both governments, it would be presented for approval at the next Gore-Chernomyrdin Environment Committee meeting expected to be held in Moscow in fall/winter 1994-95.

Monitoring and Information Technology

Experts from both sides met to review progress on existing projects and examine new proposals. It was agreed that work on the GIS Technology Center being established in Irkutsk in support of the Lake Baikal Project was progressing satisfactorily. Furthermore, it was agreed that the model that is being used to link the GIS center to user applications centers was recommended for implementation at other sites such as Khabarovsk and the Kara Sea where environmental monitoring and analysis projects are to be initiated. The two sides also agreed that the proposal submitted by the International Permafrost Association concerning permafrost investigation for the Arctic involved important data for inclusion into a comprehensive GIS monitoring program for Russia.

During their stay in Washington, the Russian delegation was hosted by several American business and professional associations. These included the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the National Governors Association, the Environmental Technology Export Council, the Electric Council for the Economy, the Environmental Business Council, the Electric Power Research Institute, and the Industry Cooperative for Ozone Layer Protection.

Vice Minister Averchenkov was received by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, NOAA Administrator James Baker, A.I.D. Assistant Administrator Thomas Dine, Director of the White House Office of Environmental Policy, Katie McGinty, and National Security Council Senior Director for Environmental Affairs, Eileen Claussen.

On April 13, members of the Russian and American delegations took part in a meeting of donor countries organized by the World Bank to consider a framework program for technical assistance to Russia on the environment.

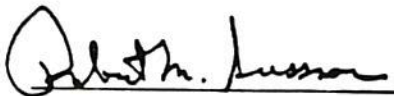
The Committee expresses its appreciation to the staff of the S. Dillon Ripley Center, Smithsonian Institution, for their highly efficient assistance in connection with this meeting. The Russian delegation likewise voices its appreciation for the hospitality and spirit of cooperation displayed by the U.S. side during the delegation's stay in Washington.

It is anticipated that the co-chairs or their representatives will meet in Washington at the time of the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission meeting in June 1994. The next meeting of the Environment Committee is tentatively scheduled to take place in Russia in the fall of 1994.

Signed April 14, 1994, in Washington, DC, in English and Russian, both texts of equal authenticity.

For the U.S. side:

For the Russian side:



Robert M. Sussman
Deputy Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency



A.A. Averchenkov
Vice Minister
Ministry of
Environmental
Protection and Natural
Resources

RUSSIAN DELEGATION COMING TO WASHINGTON
FOR THE GORE-CHERNOMYRDIN MEETING
APRIL 10-17, 1994

A.A. Averchenkov	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources (MEPNR)
N.N. Mikheev	Chairman, R.F. State Committee on Water Resources
S.I. Avdiushin	Deputy Director, Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring
A.I. Pisarenko	Deputy Chairman, Russian Federal Forestry Management Service
Y.E. Kazakov	Director, Office of International Cooperation, MEPNR
Y.G. Egorov	Deputy Head, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, R.F. Government Apparatus
P.K. Bogdanov	First Secretary, Environmental Affairs, Embassy of Russian Federation
Experts:	
O. Novoselova	Head, Dept. of Monitoring, MEPNR
G. Barenboim	Director, Ecological Station for Environmental Control (ESCOS)

GORE-CHERNOMYRDIN ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

**April 11-14, 1994
Washington, DC**

U.S. Participants

Carol Browner
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency

Robert Sussman
Deputy Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency

Alan Hecht
Acting Assistant Administrator for International Activities
Environmental Protection Agency

Katie McGinty
Director
Office of Environmental Policy

Eileen Claussen
Senior Director
Office of Environmental Affairs
National Security Council

Elinor Constable
Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and
Scientific Affairs
Department of State

Michael Schneider
Office of the Counselor
Department of State

Susan Tierney
Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Program Evaluation
Department of Energy

Thomas Dine
Assistant Administrator for Europe and the NIS
Agency for International Development

Robert Watson
Associate Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy

Adela Backiel
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources
Department of Agriculture

Robert Murphy
Special Assistant, Intergovernmental Scientific Coordination
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Barbara Moore
Office of International Affairs
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

John LeSar
Director, Office of Environment and Health (Moscow)
Agency for International Development

Christopher, Chyba
Director, Office of Environmental Affairs
National Security Council

Kenneth Thomas
Office of Environmental Protection
Department of State

Steve Kohl
Office of International Affairs
Fish and Wildlife Service, Dept. of Interior

A. David Miller
Environment, Science and Technology Office
U.S. Embassy Moscow

Rhonda Ferguson-Augustus
Office of Independent States and Commonwealth Affairs
Department of State

Lee Pasarew
Acting Director, NIS Environmental Technical Assistance Program
Environmental Protection Agency

Gary Waxmonsky
Executive Secretary
Gore-Chernomyrdin Environment Committee

Experts:

Biodiversity/Sustainable Development
Steve Kohl, Fish and Wildlife Service (Chair)
Alan Stevens, U.S. Geological Survey
Tom Lauterborn, U.S. Geological Survey
Alexandra Terninko, National Park Service
Ron Greenberg, Agency for International Development
Robert Pringle, Dept. of State
Ben Steinberg, U.S. Forest Service
Gary Wetterberg, U.S. Forest Service
Kheryn Klubnikin, U.S. Forest Service
Ken Andrasco, Environmental Protection Agency

Global Issues

Dennis Tirpak, Environmental Protection Agency (Chair)
Daniel Riefsnyder, Dept. of State
Ann DeLong, Environmental Protection Agency
Bill Freeman, Environmental Protection Agency
Ben Steinberg, U.S. Forest Service
Gary Wetterberg, U.S. Forest Service
Mark Murphy, Dept. of State
Robert Watson, National Resources Defense Council
John Diamante, Environmental Protection Agency
Ken Andrasco, Environmental Protection Agency
Joe Fletcher, NOAA
Tom Murray, NOAA
Bob Etkins, NOAA
Jonathan Elkind, Dept. of Energy
Robert Dixon, U.S. Climate Change Country Studies Program
Stephen Andersen, Environmental Protection Agency
Karen Gallegos, Dept. of State
Dennis Long, Agency for International Development
Ron Greenberg, Agency for International Development

London Convention Issues

David Colson, Dept. of State (Chair)
Alan Sielen, Environmental Protection Agency
Ray Arnaudo, Dept. of State
Kathy Walz, Dept. of State
Charles Newstead, Dept. of State
Harold Jaffe, Dept. of Energy
Robert Dyer, Environmental Protection Agency
John Diamante, Environmental Protection Agency
Leonard Johnson, Office of Naval Research
Anna Kertulla, Office of Sen. Stevens, U.S. Senate

Arctic Environmental Issues

Ray Arnaudo, Dept. of State (Chair)
Charles Newstead, Dept. of State
Rick Cook, National Park Service
Edward Myers, National Science Foundation
Bruce Molnia, U.S. Geological Survey
Edward Myers, NOAA
Alexandra Terninko, National Park Service
Alan Stevens, U.S. Geological Survey
John Diamante, Environmental Protection Agency
Philip Johnson, Arctic Research Council
Robert Dyer, Environmental Protection Agency
Leonard Johnson, Office of Naval Research
Anna Kertulla, Office of Sen. Stevens, U.S. Senate
Joe Fletcher, NOAA
Molly Ross, Dept. of Interior
Gary Wetterberg, U.S. Forest Service

Environmental Health Issues

Jack LeSar, Agency for International Development/Moscow (Chair)

Ron Greenberg, Agency for International Development

Carl Mazza, Environmental Protection Agency

Zoltan Annau, Dept. of State

Peter Henry, Dept. of Health and Human Services

